

Message Text

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17

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-07 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03

EUR-25 DRC-01 /110 W

----- 114340

R 241425Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7215

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FOR AMBASSADOR STEVENSON FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN, MI

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR STEVENSON ARRIVAL/CREDENTIAL PRESENTATION PROTOCOL

REF: STATE 159421

1. ARRIVAL: CHIEF OF PROTOCOL AND MCP HEADQUARTERS BOTH ADVISE DATE NOT YET FIRM FOR MCP CONVENTION OTHER THAN IT WILL OPEN SOMETIME BETWEEN 1-12 SEPTEMBER, PROBABLY EARLIER THAN LATER. DATE LAST YEAR WAS SEPTEMBER 2. THEY REMIND THAT PRESIDENT BANDA CUSTOMARILY TRAVELS IN DISTRICTS BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER CONVENTION, DURING WHICH TIME HE DOES NOT RECEIVE CREDENTIALS. CHIEF OF PROTOCOL THEREFORE BELIEVES AMBASSADOR SHOULD ARRIVE BY MID-AUGUST TO BE SURE OF ACCREDITATION PRIOR TO MCP CONVENTION. (FYI - LAST YEAR BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER RITCHIE ENCOUNTERED SIMILAR PROBLEM AND DID NOT PRESENT CREDENTIALS UNTIL OCTOBER 6.)

2. SHOULD MID-AUGUST ARRIVAL PROVE INCONVENIENT, WOULD POINT OUT SEPTEMBER CAN PROFITABLY BE DEVOTED TO PROGRAM OF IN-COUNTRY ORIENTATION AND TRAVEL WITH PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS AFTER PRESIDENT'S RETURN TO SOUTHERN REGION LATE SEPTEMBER.

3. PRESENTATION CEREMONY: FORMAL MORNING ATTIRE REQUIREMENT STILL
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IN EFFECT EXCEPT THAT ONLY AMBASSADOR CUSTOMARILY CARRIES TOP HAT.

CHIEF OF PROTOCOL ADVISES CEREMONY HAS COME TO BE MUCH MORE BRIEF THAN 1970 OR EARLIER AND ATTENDANCE OF MORE THAN TWO OFFICERS WITH AMBASSADOR IS NOT DESIRED. "ONE PLUS ONE" IN FACT IS CURRENT PRACTICE AND IS RECOMMENDED BY YOUR UK COLLEAGUE WHO FOUND, AS I PRESUME YOU WOULD, DIFFICULTY MAKING INVIDIOUS CHOICE BETWEEN OTHER AGENCY HEADS FOR OTHER ATTENDEE BESIDE DCM. "ONE PLUS ONE" HAS ADVANTAGE IN ELIMINATING PROBLEM OF MORNING DRESS FOR CIVILIAN OFFICERS (I CAN ARRANGE MY OWN). ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE TO INCLUDE DATT, WHO HAS FORMAL DRESS. (OF MISSIONS WITH MILITARY ATTACHES BRITISH DID NOT INCLUDE DATT ALTHOUGH SOUTH AFRICANS DID). I SUGGEST IT MAY BE MORE APPROPRIATE TO GO "ONE PLUS ONE."

4. DRAFT REMARKS POUCHED AF/E JULY 26. NATURALLY WILL APPRECIATE KNOWING YOUR ENVISAGED ARRIVAL TIMING PLUS ANY COMMENTS OR CHANGES IN PROPOSED REMARKS AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE.
FARBER

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